

NRHS Space Needs Task Force

Interim Report

February 5, 2015

The NRHS Space Needs Task Force had its initial meeting in December, 2013. We have met almost every month since that time. During the past year we reviewed the current state of NRHS facilities, were exposed to the Massachusetts School Building Authority standards for new construction and renovation, visited several recently built high schools in the Metrowest area, and heard from district and high school administrators and teachers on the current conditions at the high school.

At this point, we have these general observations:

1. Approximately one hundred (100) students per period are not scheduled for instruction due to lack of classrooms and laboratory facilities.
2. Some classrooms physically limit the ability of the teacher to teach. Students are dissuaded from supplemental instruction due to lack of privacy.
3. Administrators and teachers lack appropriate meeting space for collaborative and professional tasks among themselves. The effect on students is unclear.
4. There are a limited number of spaces where inadequate/uneven heating and/or ventilation impair learning at various times in the course of a year.
5. The current NRHS facility is in sound shape, but showing its age. Day-to-day maintenance will not be a viable long-term solution.
6. Increased maintenance and small capital projects are needed to prevent degradation of the building and grounds. Current NRSD plans to address these issues appear sufficient.

The future population of NRHS and the physical plant consequences of increased enrollment remain to be examined.

The effect of space limits on curriculum goals remains to be examined.

Our next steps are to pursue the general observations above by:

- A. Understand the consequences of less than a full day of instruction to students' post-NRHS opportunities. If there are adverse consequences, what type of space(s) and how much space are needed to remedy the adverse consequences.

- B. How much space and/or facilities are needed to restore full-period instruction for all subjects. Science courses need especially detailed facility study. What physical resources are needed for supplemental instruction?
- C. Evaluate the effect on student outcomes of lack of meeting space for teacher-collaboration, administrative tasks and professional tasks.
- D. Develop detailed list of heating and/or ventilation issues.
- E. Review 10-year plan for NRHS maintenance and capital improvements.
- F. Determine how to develop reliable projection of future NRHS enrollment.
- G. Understand the curriculum goals and determine if achieving these goals is affected by space limitations.

In the past year the Task Forces established a very broad outline of the space issues at the high school. Now our task is to flesh out those issues and identify the specific obstacles that must be overcome to keep student achievement at a high level.

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